THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI MADHAVRAO SCINDIA): (a) and (b) No standard size of bookstall or counter tables has been laid down by the Ministry of Railways. Sizes are decided by Zonal Railways keeping in view availability of space, passenger demand, congestion on platforms, etc.

(c) Zonal Railways have been advised to review the need for continuing the existing stalls etc., and reduce them wherever warranted.

Cultural festival

1512. SHRI KALPNATH RAI: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what are the main features of the cultural fesival being organised in Delhi from November 9, 1986;

(b) wheher there are plans to arrange such festivals in other parts of the country; and

(c) if so, what are the details of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI KRISHNA SAHI): (a) Some of the main features of the National Cultural Festival being organised in Delhi are as follows:—

(i) The main thrust of the Festival is the involvement of the people of Delhi in the celebration of the Festival by providing an opportunity to them to see the rich and varied cultural heritage of the country. It will also enhance cross-cultural communication and inter-action by bringing together artistes from all over India.

(ii) Seven Mukhya Maidans in densely populated areas in Delhi are the venues for celebration of the Festival. The cultural troupes from each of the seven Zonal Cultural Centres set up recently around the country have been performing at each of the seven Maidans for two days. These Centres have brought about 500 participants each and are holding exhibitions of their handicrafts, music, dance, theatre and organising workshops, group discussions etc. The other participating components are the schools and colleges.

(iii) During the course of the Festival specific days have been alloted for special manifestation to be reflected in the programmes of all Zonal Camps as well as sites specially chosen for the occasion. 14th November being Jawaharlal Nehru birth anniversary has been devoted to children for programmes that vary from roadside events, games to special events in the institutions for the handicapped and underprivileged children. 19th November being the birth anniversary of Mrs. Indira Gandhi has been declared by the Prime Minister as the Environmental Day.

(iv) Special events known as 'Goonjte Pathar' are being organised in collaboration with the Archaeological Survey of India in different parts of Delhi. In order to delineate the four major streams in our cultural heritage the Festival has also created the concept of 'The Four Khas Baghs' as Kavya Bagh, Nritya Bagh, Natya Bagh and Sangeet Bagh. Here in these Baghs well-known maestros have been rehearsing, discussing and performing among themselves and their viewers.

(b) and (c) The intention is to have such festivals in other parts of the country but definite proposals have yet to be worked out.

Loss suffered by DTC

1513. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of SURFACE TRANSPORT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total loss suffered by DTC during the period from April, 1986 to October, 1986; and

(b) what steps Government have taken to eliminate the losses in DTC?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SURFACE TRANSPORT (SHRI RAJESH PILOT): (a) DTC has incurred a loss of Rs. 23.87 crores on its operation during the period from April '86 to October, 1986.

(b) DTC's fare-structure had been revised with effect from 8.2.86. The revision however meant only part neutralization of the differential between cost of operation and earnings. Measures have been initiated for higher productivity and reduction in per unit cost which include economy measures in the areas of maintenance operations and administration; the plugging of leakages in revenue through improved and intensive checking and introduction of incentive measures.

Passenger facilities provided by IA

1514. SHRI V. NARAYANSAMY: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the facilities provided to the passengers in Indian Airlines flights including Catering services are very poor at various airports; and

(b) what steps Government have taken to improve the facilities and supply of quality food to the passengers?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI JAGDISH TYTLER): (a and (b) It would be incorrect to say that the facilities provided to passengers including catering services in Indian Airlnes flights are poor. There may be some isolated complaints in this regard which are attended to. It is the constant endeavour of Indian Airlines to provide better facilities and good quality in flight caterng to passengers.

Opening of sports schools and colleges

1515. SHRI V. NARAYANASAMY: Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to set up sports schools and sports colleges in various States to impart training to the sportsmen and women in the country; and

(b) if so, by when such a scheme is likely to be implemented?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF YOUTH AFFAIRS AND SPORTS AND WOMEN AND CHILD DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRIMATI MARGARET ALVA): (a) and (b) Although there is no scheme under the consideration of the Government of India for the setting up of sports schools and colleges in various States to impart training to the sportsmen and women as such in the country, some States have already set up Sports Schools and are supporting them. The Central Government has, however, in operation certain other schemes for spotting and nurturing of talent among students in the field of sports which are as under:

(i) The shcheme of Sports Authority of India of adoption of schools for sports training.

(ii) The National Coaching Scheme implemented by the Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports which operates 25 regional coaching centres in different States under the scheme.

(iii) The scheme of setting up of Sports Hostels in the country initiated by the Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports.

(iv) The scheme of Sports Talent Search scholarships of the Department implemented by the Netaji Subhas National Institute of Sports and the Scheme of the National Sports Talent Contest of the SAI.

(v) The scheme of setting up of Field Stations of the Society for National Institutes of Physical Educaion and Sports (SNIPES) in universities implemented by the Netaji-Subhas National Institute of Sports.